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COLWYN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Survey Report for 1925.

By W. BLACK JONES, M.D., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	29,570
Population, Census 1921	...	...	2,050
Population, estimate for 1925	...	...	2,193
Number of inhabited houses, 1921	...	...	460
Number of inhabited houses, 1925	...	...	465
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1921	...	...	460
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1925	...	...	466
Ratable value	...	...	£16,726
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£69 13 0

Social Conditions.—The District is of an agricultural character; the only other industry is a large quarry in the Parish of Llanelwedd. Physically the District is broken up by ranges of hills, which attain an altitude of over 1,000 feet.

At Builth Road Junction are a number of well built cottages for the employees of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway. There are four other hamlets: Aberedw, Cregrina, Hundred House and Howey. Near Builth Wells Station are a number of houses, and a saw mill.

2. VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1925.

		Total.	M.	F.		1925.	1921.
Births	{ Legitimate	...	34	14	} Birth rate	...	15'5
	{ Illegitimate	...	—	—			
Deaths	...	26	13	13	Death Rate	...	11'8
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth					...	1.	10'2
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—							

Legitimate, 2; Illegitimate, Nil. Total, 2=58 per 1,000 births.

Births.—The birth rate was 15'5, that for England and Wales was 18'3.

Deaths.—The death rate was 11'8, that for England and Wales was 12'2. Of the deaths, 9 persons died over 70 years of age. Of the infantile deaths, one died from Broncho-pneumonia, and the other from Haematemesis.

Causes of Death.—Tuberculosis of respiratory system, 1; Other Tuberculous Disease, 1; Cancer, 4; Cerebral Haemorrhage, 3; Heart Disease 5; Bronchitis, 1; Pneumonia, 1; Cirrhosis of liver, 1; Chronic Nephritis, 1; Disease of pregnancy, 1; Violence, 1; Other defined diseases, 6. Total, 26.

Poor Law Relief.—This amounted to £231 12s. 4d. for the year ending 31st March, 1925. The Infirmary of the Builth Union is situated in the Urban District of Builth Wells. There is a hospital at Llandrindod Wells, and also at Builth Wells; both receive patients from the Rural District, they are supported by voluntary contributions.

During the period under review, the District has been free from any serious epidemic.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

There is no hospital for infectious disease in the area. Several conferences have been held with neighbouring Districts for the provision of a joint hospital, but owing to the excessive cost, no progress has been made.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, nor are there any balance arrangements.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is held once a month in the Urban District of Builth Wells, it is available for those residing in a part of the parish of Llanelwedd. The Welsh National Memorial also have a Dispensary at Llandrindod Wells and at Builth Wells, a physician attends twice a month.

Public Health Officers.—The Staff consists of a Medical Officer of Health, a Sanitary Inspector, and an Inspector of Slaughter-houses; they are part time. Exchequer grants are made towards the salaries of the first two Officers. There is also a Deputy Medical Officer of Health, unpaid.

Nursing.—There are two certificated mid-wives in the District, one at Builth Road, the other at Llansaintffraed; they also act as general nurses. They are supported, partly by grants from the County Council, and partly by subscriptions. There is no provision for nursing cases of infectious disease.

Laboratory Work.—Arrangements have been made for the examination of swabs in suspected cases of Diphtheria.

Legislation in Force.—The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations, 1907. Byelaws respecting Slaughter-houses, 1925.

The above are carried out in a satisfactory manner.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.—Generally the water supply is derived from wells and springs. The houses at Builth Road Junction have a supply in pipes, also several houses near Builth Wells Station are supplied from the Urban District of Builth Wells.

Rivers and Streams.—There does not appear to be any pollution of rivers.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The drainage of some houses in the Parish of Llanellwedd, near Builth Wells Station, has been unsatisfactory for many years ; the Council have recently adopted a scheme for a public sewer.

Closet Accommodation.—There are 108 water closets, and 357 privies ; as the area is a scattered one, it does not appear that the privies are a danger to health.

Scavenging.—House refuse is disposed of by the occupiers.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—The Sanitary Inspector reports that he has made the following number of inspections :—

Nuisances	...	69
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	88
Bakehouses	...	5
Notices served :—		
Informal	...	7
Statutory	...	nil

The above notices have been complied with.

The slaughter-houses have been inspected on 89 occasions, these and the above premises have been found to be clean.

Smoke Abatement.—No occasion for action has occurred.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws or Regulations :—

Slaughter-houses	...	5
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	23
Bakehouses	...	2

Schools.—The sanitary condition and water supply of the schools is fairly good.

The school at Llansaintffraed was closed for an outbreak of Influenza, and that at Howey for Chickenpox.

Housing.

I. General Housing Conditions in the Area.

1. General Housing Conditions : On the whole they are good, the farm houses are well built, and the cottages attain a fair standard.
2. There is little demand for houses, three only are contemplated.
3. The population remains stationary.

II. Overcrowding.

There is no overcrowding.

III. Fitness of Houses.

1. (a) The general standard as mentioned above is good.
(b) The defects are generally due to dampness.
(c) The above defects are usually due to the neglect of the owners, and are always remedied when notice is served.
2. No action has been taken under either the Public Health or the Housing Acts.
3. No difficulties have been found in remedying unfitness.
4. Conditions as far as water supply is concerned, are fairly satisfactory.

IV. There are no unhealthy areas.

V. There are no Bye-laws as to houses.

Housing Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year :— Nil.

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	61
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	1

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	7
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

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|--|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | ... | Nil |

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

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|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

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|---|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view of making Closing Orders | ... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | Nil |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the houses having been rendered fit | ... | Nil |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | Nil |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | Nil |

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

In October, 1925, the Council, after considering the new legislation which had come into force, arranged for a meeting of licensed milk dealers to be held at Howey. It was addressed by Mr. J. P. Railton, M.R.C.V.S., when the duties of milk vendors were explained.

Eleven samples of milk were at first taken, and the results of the bacteriological examination were satisfactory; subsequently two samples were found not to be up to the standard.

1. No tuberculous milk or cattle have been found.
2. No licenses for the sale of milk under special designations have been applied for.
3. No licenses have been refused for any cause.

(b) Meat.

1. The slaughter-houses are inspected periodically, no case of diseased meat has been found.
2. The Inspector also visits shops in accordance with the Meat Regulations, 1924.
3. There is no public abattoir.

The following private slaughter-houses were in use at the dates mentioned :—

	In 1920.	In January, 1925.	In December, 1925.
Registered	5	5	—
Licensed	—	—	5

(c) The Inspector has inspected the bakehouses and found them clean.

(d) No food poisoning has occurred.

No action has been taken with regard to condensed milk.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

Since 1920, the prevalence of infectious diseases has been light. As regards Scarlet Fever, 7 cases occurred in 1921, and only 1 each in 1924 and 1925. There was 1 case of Diphtheria in 1923 and another in 1925. One case of Pneumonia occurred in 1924.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is always available if required.

No use of the Shick and Dick tests has been made.

No vaccinations have been made by the Medical Officer of Health.

The prevalence of non-notifiable infectious diseases has been slight.

Facilities are available at the Builth Workhouse for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1925.—Scarlet Fever, 1, a woman aged 28; Diphtheria, 1, a girl aged 4.

Neither case was admitted to hospital, neither died.

Tuberculosis.**New Cases and Mortality during 1925.****New Cases.**

Age Periods.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
10—15	—	—	—	1
20—25	1	2	—	—
25—35	—	—	1	—

One female died at the age of 31 years from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.—No action was taken under these Regulations.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.—No action was taken under this Section.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—No incidence of infectious disease occurred by which mothers or children were endangered.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.—The Inspector has inspected the work places, and finds the sanitary conditions satisfactory.

Builth Wells,
6th April, 1926.